

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 13-15 stand rejected under 355 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Pribil U.S. 1,350,177. To the extent that this rejection would be applied to claims as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

The preliminary amendment defines the invention more clearly over the art of record than the amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 taken alone. More particularly, the remarks attached to the advisory action state that the claim fails to include any details of what elements are being considered to measure length. While applicants feel that the meaning of "length" would be clear to one skilled in the art, claim 1 has nevertheless been amended to define the term "length" explicitly.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the connecting web and the joint eye as a whole are "one-piece", which also defines more clearly over Pribil.

The distinctions between applicants' invention as claimed and the prior art should now be clear, and comport fully with the arguments presented in the amendment under 37 CFR §1.116, to which the Examiner is referred.

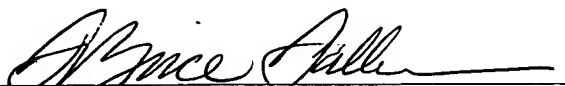
The claims as amended being definite and patentable over the art of record, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and early allowance are solicited.

If any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with this

application, they may be charged to our U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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